

February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Greg Bubnash

Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC), by 20%.

The Department of Social Services contracts with BIAC to provide services required as part of the Medicaid ABI Waiver program. In the amendments to both Waivers that were implemented last year, BIAC is the only organization approved to provide advanced training for case managers.

This week ten years ago, our son Mike was involved in a terrible single car accident. As a result of the accident, Mike suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). Mike fought and was able to survive the accident but we did not know where to turn to find reliable information regarding TBIs. Luckily for us, we found BIAC and talked to Melinda, a brain injury specialist there. Melinda provided us with valuable information regarding brain injuries, signs we needed to be aware of during Mike's recovery and contacts for people who could help us work through the many medical and legal issues survivors deal with. Melinda and BIAC were always there for us through many follow-up calls. We are forever indebted for the help and support we received from BIAC (all at no cost) during this difficult time and remain in contact with them as Mike continues his recovery ten years after the accident. Our experience with BIAC is similar to countless other stories which is why funding for BIAC must not be reduced.

A 20% reduction in funding would severely impact BIAC and the services they provide to the community. Please maintain funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line so that BIAC can be there for those who need them most.

Thank you,

Greg Bubnash

Dad of brain injury survivor